

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Does it not show the inability to pay on the part of the ryots?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—It may be inability to pay or it may be disinclination to pay.

Revenue from Chennamangalam for the last five years.

293. Mr. E. Ikanda Warriar.—Will the Government be pleased to state the average income per year for the last five years from Chennamangalam under Land Revenue and Excise?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Land Revenue Rs. 7,914—8—5
Excise „ 22,340—0—0

Verification of exchange rates charged on Governments.

294. Mr. P. C. Varkey.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have at any time verified the rates of exchange charged with the rates prevailing; and if so, with whom?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—The rates are checked now and then with the rates quoted in the newspapers.

Panchayat Election.

295. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

- (a) was not 23rd Makaram 1109 the date for nomination for the election of Panchayatdars in the said Panchayat (Aloor);
- (b) if so, how many seats were contested and how many not contested;
- (c) have the contested elections been held subsequently; if so, when;
- (d) how many times were the contested elections adjourned; if adjourned, what were the reasons for the adjournment;
- (e) has the Panchayat been holding any meetings after Kanni 1109;
- (f) what were the dates for nomination for the election of Panchayatdars in the Pazhayannur, Eyyal, Chiranellur, Vallattanjur, Chowwannur and Aloor Panchayats;
- (g) in how many of these were elections contested;
- (h) how many adjournments of elections were made in each of the above Panchayats before the actual election was held, if held at all;
- (i) are the Government aware that these contested elections involve a good lot of waste of time and energy of the persons concerned?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—(a) There is no Panchayat known as Aloor Panchayat. Aloor is one of the villages included within the jurisdiction of the Choondal group Panchayat. The date fixed for receiving nomination to all the seats in the group excepting Eranellur was 10th Makaram 1109.

(b) One seat was contested and two not contested.

(c) The election for Aloor was held on 8th Karkadagam 1109.

(d) *Aloor election.*—It was first fixed for 10th Makaram 1109. It had to be adjourned as the Talappalli Tahsildar got intimation from the Superintendent of Survey and Land Records fixing 9th Makaram 1109 and 10th Makaram 1109 as the dates fixed for the joint verification of the Ponnani Cochin boundary. Then it was again fixed for 13th Kumbham 1109. It had to be adjourned to 16th Kumbham 1109 as the Tahsildar had to attend to urgent and unexpected work elsewhere on that date. Nominations were however accepted on that date and then 12th Mithunam 1109 was fixed as the date for balloting. The notification sent to Aloor for publication was sent by mistake to Aloor Village of the Mukundapuram Taluk. The mistake was noted only at a late hour. On 8th Karkadagam 1109, the election was held.

(e) Yes.

(f) Pazhayannur 20th Vrischigam 1109.

Eyyal 20th Kumbham 1109.

Chiranellur do

Vellattanjur do

Chowwannur 23rd Meenam 1109.

Aloor—Vide answer to (a) and (d).

(g) Elections were contested in all these cases.

(h) Pazhayannur—No adjournment was made.

Eyyal—One adjournment was made.

Chiranellur—One adjournment was made.

Vellattanjur—do

Chowwannur—No adjournment was made.

Aloor—Vide answer to (d) above.

(i) It is true that much time and energy are spent on contested elections, but the parties concerned do not appear to think that it is a waste.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Do the Government think, though the parties do not think so, that it is necessary to continue to waste the time and energy?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Time and energy spent on necessary and inevitable matters are well spent.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Are not these contested elections?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—There are elections and contested elections.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Are not time and energy wasted by the repeated adjournments?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—If the adjournments are inevitable, time and energy spent will also be inevitable.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Do not these elections affect very seriously the legitimate revenue work of the Tahsildars?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I cannot say that it affects the revenue work of the Tahsildars. But certainly it takes away their time. Time spent there is time taken away from here.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—How is it that the Tahsildars are appointed to conduct the elections when there is already a Panchayat Department?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—That is the statutory rule. Probably it might be due to the greater familiarity as the executive head of the Pattadars of the village.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—(i) Is it not in the election fever that they do not consider it to be a waste?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—I have not much experience of it.

Standard weights and measures.

296. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Commissioner of Police or any other authority has enquired into the matter of the existence of different kinds of stamped parahs (measures) used in the State, after 8th Kumbham 1109 (Vide Volume 6, part 6, page 463 of the Council Proceedings);

(b) is it not a fact that in Trichur a parah of larger dimensions is used than the one used in the Talappalli Taluk;

(c) do the Government think the existence of such various measures conducive to the fair dealings in the market;

(d) what steps do the Government propose to take, if any, to bring about uniformity which was the aim of legislation on the subject?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—(a) No difference in stamped parahs (measures) has been brought to notice. Weights and measures used by merchants are periodically checked by the Police and the Magistracy and when any un-stamped measures are found out, persons found using them are brought to book.

(b) Stamped parahs are of the same capacity in all the Taluks but some private persons seem to use different kinds of